

About your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed hepatitis A vaccine for you.

What is this medicine used for?

This vaccine is used to help prevent infection caused by hepatitis A virus. Hepatitis A vaccine contains a small amount of noninfectious hepatitis A virus which will trigger your body's immune system to prepare itself to protect against these viruses in the future.

This vaccine will only protect against hepatitis A and not against any other types of hepatitis virus or any other illness that can cause hepatitis (inflammation of the liver).

How is this medicine given?

This vaccine is given by injection into a muscle.

Two doses are usually required, one primary dose followed by a booster dose 6 to 12 months later.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Inform your doctor if you miss a scheduled injection. Your doctor will decide when to give the missed dose.

What possible side effects may it cause?

Certain side effects of this medicine are not unusual and may even disappear during treatment. If any of the following effects persist or are severe, consult your doctor.

- Some people may feel faint after the vaccination.
 - Sit for 15 minutes to avoid fainting
- Injection-site reactions: mild pain, swelling, redness
 - You may put a cold compress on the affected area to reduce these symptoms
 - You may take paracetamol (if you are not allergic to it) to reduce the pain
- Headache and mild fever
 - You may take paracetamol (if you are not allergic to it) to treat the headache or fever
- Drowsiness
 - It usually goes away on its own
- Reduced appetite, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting
 - These symptoms usually go away on its own

Consult your doctor as soon as possible if you have any allergic reaction. Signs of allergic reaction include:

- Rashes or hives
- Difficulty breathing
- Swelling of the face/eyes/lips/tongue/throat
- Severe dizziness
- Fast heartbeat

What precautions should I take?

Inform your doctor if:

- You are allergic to hepatitis A vaccine; any of its ingredients; latex; or any other medicines, foods, or substances.
- You have severe allergy to neomycin.
- You have a history of bleeding disorders.
- You have weakened immune system.
- You are not feeling well and are having a fever.
- You are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- You are taking other medicines (prescription or over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, minerals, herbal products).

When in doubt, consult your doctor or pharmacist.

National Skin Centre

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